GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3199
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
AGREEMENT WITH ASEAN AIRLINES
Sikdar Smt. Joytirmoyee

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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(a) The salient features of the open air agreement with ASEAN countries and the status of the agreement as on date ;

(b)Whether National carriages are plagued with shortage of aircraft and not able to compete with other airlines of ASEAN countries; and

(c) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) : As per our ASEAN offer, a daily service to four metropolitian cities viz. Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai and an unlimited access to 18 tourist destinations in India had been offered to the designated airlines of all 10 ASEAN countries.Among these ASEAN countries,Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam have already accepted this offer.

(b) and (c) : With a view to improve passenger-seat utilization, both the national carriers have taken various steps. Air India has launched its low cost carrier, Air India Express. The services of Air India Express will be progressively expanded to South East Asia and other Regions. Both the airlines are in the process of acquiring new aircraft,which will substantially enhance their product. Dry leasing of aircraft, refurbishing of existing aricraft, launching o f special promotional schemes, closing of uneconomical offices, downsizing and re-deployment of staff and outsourcing of non-core activities to subsidiary companies etc are other steps being taken in this direction.